

the basis of the requirements of the various State Governments. They normally work for a period of 2 years in technical projects and programmes for which their services are required by the State Governments. Their day to day work is subject to the direct supervision and guidance of Indian officials who also send periodical reports on the work of individual volunteers. They are required to obtain the necessary visa for entry into India and also to register themselves under the Foreigners Registration Act on arrival in India.

#### Sanitary conditions in South Avenue, New Delhi

\*1121. **Shri Nitraj Singh Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the sanitary and other conditions prevailing in South Avenue M.P. Flats;

(b) whether he is also aware of the condition of outmoded, old and uncomfortable furniture supplied there;

(c) whether he is also aware of the conditions of lawns which at places do not have any grass and the children in that locality have almost no amenities;

(d) whether he is also aware of the indifferent treatment meted to M.Ps. by the Central Public Works Department employees; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Jaganath Rao):** (a) Yes, the conditions are not bad but efforts are continually made to improve them.

(b) The furniture was made some years back to the designs and standards then in vogue. Steps are being taken to replace the old furniture subject to the availability of funds.

(c) The condition of lawns and hedges deteriorates, particularly, in the summer because of the acute shortage of unfiltered water. With

the onset of monsoon, horticultural activities are being intensified and the condition of lawns and hedges will be improved.

Certain amenities for children have already been provided. If these are considered inadequate, the residents' committee should request the House Committees of both the Houses of Parliament to recommend further augmentation.

(d) and (e). If any specific case of indifference or discourtesy is brought to the notice of Government, suitable action against the persons concerned will be taken. Steps are being taken to improve the disposal of Members' complaints more expeditiously.

#### Indian Monetary System

\*1122. **Shri Shiva Chandra Jha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian monetary system is still linked with certain amount of compulsory gold reserves;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much gold reserves it had under the Three Plans and how much it would have under the present inflationary situation during the Fourth Plan period?

**The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai):** (a) The Reserve Bank of India Act prescribes that the total holdings of gold coin and bullion and foreign securities held in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank should not be less than Rs. 200 crores and that of this, the value of gold coin and bullion should not be less than Rs. 115 crores.

(b) A certain minimum reserve of gold is considered prudent as a provision for extreme contingencies.

(c) At the beginning of the First Plan, the value of gold coin and bullion held in the Issue Department